tion that it is now about the best administered in the Province. Although comparatively a junior officer of the Provincial Service, he came to Sind with an established reputation for intelligent and hard work, and his transfer from the Central Circle occasioned an expression of regret from both the Conservator and the Divisional Forest Officer to whom he was directly subordinate. His selection for filling up the vacancy caused by the reduction of Mr. Baptista was a fortunate one, as the Sukkur Division is the largest as well as the most difficult one to manage. Above all, his work in connection with the prosecution of Forester Sanwal Khan, recorded in paragraph 137, requires to be specially noticed. The case was a very intricate one, and the intelligence and conscientious zeal he displayed in preparing the evidence and exhibits evoked unqualified praise from the Government Pleader who represented the Crown at the trial before the Sessions Court and also from the Public Prosecutor in Sind who conducted the appeal before the Sadar Court. The patience he exhibited during the course of the trial, when he was subjected to a severe cross-examination lasting for two days and when the pleader for the defence made an unwarranted attack on his personal character, also commanded respect.

144. Messrs. O. H. L. Napier and Shaukiram Pribdas have managed their respective charges with care and foresight.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Deputy Conservator's tour.

145. The Circle being a compact one and means of locomotion by land and water not wanting, I was able to inspect almost all the forests with comparative facility. In the Sukkur and Naushahro Divisions, I noticed that the rules and orders for the acquisition of new accretions thrown up by the river, framed and issued from time to time by successive Commissioners, have generally been applied in years gone by to the detriment of the forest area. But this condition of things has been changed by the promulgation of the Circular issued by Mr. James in August 1894, and which has been referred to in paragraph 15 of the Progress Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1893-94. It has to be noted that these orders do not find favour with the Revenue officers of the very two districts—Upper Sind Frontier and Shikarpur—in which it was the custom formerly to treat the Forest Department in this matter with little or no consideration.

Thar and Parkar District.

146. It is to be regretted that no steps have yet been taken to constitute the areas notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, in November 1891 Reserved Forests in the Thar and Parkar District and place them under the management of the Forest Department. The area of the land is 186 square miles, and they are capable of yielding a large quantity of fuel for the Railway, as experimental cuttings made in 1892 by Forest officers showed that an outturn of about 3,000 cubic feet per acre was obtained from some of the "Dhaka" numbers. The importance, therefore, of bringing such a valuable State property under rational management cannot be underrated. Now that the Hyderabad-Umarkot Railway is to be extended across the Sind desert and the Kotri-Rohri line is under construction, it is absolutely necessary that an adequate establishment should be maintained and effective control introduced in these forests for the purpose of keeping up a cheap and permanent supply of fuel to meet the requirements of both the Railways. Unless exploitation is carried on systematically and works of improvement and reproduction are undertaken under intelligent management without loss of time, it will be found impossible later on to work them with advantage.

External relations.

147. The external relations of the Department have been on the whole very satisfactory as the following extracts from two of the Divisional reports show :—

Mr. Ryan, commenting on the forest offences tried by Magistrates in the Jerruck Division, records :

"—but it ought not to be omitted from mention that the Assistant Collector, "Shahbandar, Mr. Lawrence, I. C. S., and the Mukhtyarkar of "Mirpur Batora, Mr. Rochiram, rendered the Department consider-

" able help in the disposal of cases, for which many acknowledg-
" ments are due to them. Without their aid, it would have been
" almost impossible to cope with some of the 'Maldars' who became
" very unruly."

Mr. Dalal, the Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur, states:

" In conclusion, I wish to place on record my grateful acknowledgments
" for much useful advice and assistance received during the year
" from Colonel Mayhew, Collector and District Magistrate of Shikar-
" pur. It is mainly by the influence and hearty co-operation of
" that officer that I was able to hold my own against the powerful com-
" bination of interests brought to bear on me in Sanwal Khan's case.
" The keen interest which Colonel Mayhew takes in arboriculture, in
" the spread of plantations and in forest matters generally is well
" known. Whenever I had occasion to seek his advice or assistance,
" Colonel Mayhew has been ever ready to give a sympathetic hearing
" and to do what lay in his power to advance the interests of the
" Department."

148. The records and accounts of all the Divisional Forest Offices were examined during the year, and no serious mistakes were discovered. Mr. Parmanand Hirdaram, Head Accountant, performed this duty with his customary care and accuracy.

Examination of divisional records.

F. R. DASAI,
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sind Circle.